

**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE AVALON SUBDIVISION,
BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for

WOODSIDE HOMES OF SOUTH TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

This report details the results of an intensive archaeological survey performed by SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) for the proposed 26-acre Avalon Subdivision located in northwestern Bexar County, Texas. The project was completed on behalf of Woodside Homes of South Texas and in compliance with the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design section of the Unified Development Code. SWCA's investigation included a background literature and records review and an intensive pedestrian survey to systematically identify, record, delineate, and if possible, determine the significance of any cultural resources located within the project area. The project area is located southeast of the intersection of Loop 1604 and Bandera Road, and west of French Creek in northwestern Bexar County.

The background review revealed that one archaeological survey had been conducted by the University of Texas at San Antonio in the project area and recorded site 41BX370, which partially extends into the project area. Site 41BX370 is a prehistoric open campsite with associated lithic debitage and tools. This site is located on the eastern banks of French Creek, however a portion of the site extends to the western banks of the creek and encroaches upon the eastern portion of the project area that abuts French Creek. This portion of the site within the project area has been heavily disturbed by vegetation clearing, surface truncation by the horizontal displacement of soils due to tillage, one of two old backhoe trenches, the placement of a sewer main in 1977, and a fence line. Additionally, based on the landowner accounts, the site has been extensively collected by generations of owners.

During the SWCA field investigation, archaeologists surveyed the 26-acre project area, utilizing shovel tests and available exposures. The survey revealed a low potential for significant cultural resources in the project area due to heavily disturbed and truncated soils and the fact that the western half of the project area has already been mechanically leveled to the underlying limestone subsurface by the proposed subdivision development. The archaeological survey did encounter the heavily disturbed site 41BX370 along the eastern margin of the project area. However, a portion of the site in the proposed project area lacks integrity, has limited artifact frequency, and, therefore, minimal information potential. According to the Woodside Homes of South Texas representative, Mr. Bron Leatham, the proposed development will not encroach the site because it is contained within proposed greenbelt areas that will not be developed as part of the project. Based on these findings, the proposed Avalon Subdivision PUD Project will have no effect on significant cultural resources. Accordingly, no further archaeological work is recommended. No artifacts were collected during the investigations, thus nothing was curated.

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Cultural Resources Survey of the Avalon Subdivision, Bexar County, Texas.

SWCA PROJECT NUMBER: 11935-126-AUS.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Avalon Subdivision Project is approximately 26 acres. SWCA conducted an archaeological background review and intensive pedestrian survey of the project area to determine if any significant archaeological resources would be impacted by the proposed project.

LOCATION: The project area is located in northwestern Bexar County southeast of the intersection of Loop 1604 and Bandera Road, and west of French Creek. The project area appears on the Helotes (2998-312) USGS 7.5-minute topographic map. Much of the area around the area of potential effect is developed with residential and commercial subdivisions, and roadways.

NUMBER OF ACRES SURVEYED: 26 acres.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kevin A. Miller.

DATES OF WORK: September 27, 2006.

PURPOSE OF WORK: The project sponsor is fulfilling regulatory requirements in association with the Unified Development Code of San Antonio.

NUMBER OF SITES: One previously recorded site, 41BX370, was identified in the project area.

CURATION: No artifacts were collected, thus nothing was curated.

COMMENTS: Survey revealed the project area is heavily disturbed from recent development. The archaeological survey did encounter a previously recorded and heavily disturbed prehistoric site, 41BX370, within the eastern extent of the proposed project area. The site on the proposed project area is not considered significant on the basis of lacking integrity, limited artifact frequency, and therefore minimal information potential.

The proposed development will not encroach upon the site because it is contained within proposed greenbelt areas that will not be developed as part of the project. Based on these physiographic and disturbance findings, the proposed Avalon Subdivision PUD Project will have no further effect on cultural resources. Therefore, no further archaeological investigations are warranted and archaeological clearance is recommended

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Woodside Homes of South Texas, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed Avalon Subdivision Project in northwestern Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The work, which included an archaeological background records review and an intensive pedestrian survey, was conducted in compliance with the Unified Development Code of San Antonio. Kevin A. Miller served as the Principal Investigator for the survey and Steve Carpenter and David Wilcox conducted fieldwork on September 27, 2006.

The proposed project area consists a of 26-acre block project area for a proposed subdivision to be located directly adjacent to French Creek. The depth of subsurface impacts would vary, but are expected to be substantial resulting from the construction and development of roads, houses, and infrastructures such as water and sewer lines.

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The Avalon Subdivision project area is located in northwestern Bexar County. The project area parallels the western terraces of French Creek, beginning at Prue Road extending southeastward towards North Verde Drive, and demarcated in the west by Old Prue Road. The proposed project area is situated along the first terrace, and an upland limestone bedrock landform overlooking the creek. Much of the surrounding area is developed with residential and commercial subdivisions and roadways.

These disturbances encroach into the two distinct physiographic landform portions of the project area. The western half of the project is on a limestone bedrock formation, and the eastern half is on a T1 alluvial terrace associated with French Creek.

Construction on the westernmost area of the project, the upland limestone landform, has already commenced. This development has truncated this upland to the parent limestone bedrock and horizontally displacing any shallow alluvial sediment. The construction has also cleared all surface vegetation and a large percentage of the overhead canopy. Previously existing structures on this upland landform, within the project area, have been raised. Road construction for the residential area during the time of the survey had already begun and lacked asphalt and sidewalk pavers.

The T1 alluvial terrace, where the easternmost part of the project area is contained, has also been subjected to disturbance by way of agricultural tilling and the construction and placement of a sewer line main. The proposed Avalon Subdivision project has not encroached this landform. Since this terrace has not been impacted by the subdivision construction, the intensive pedestrian archaeological survey was mostly bounded on this landform.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

GEOLOGY

The geology of the project area is mapped as Lower Cretaceous Edwards Limestone (Barnes 1983). The formation contains fine to coarse grained, abundant chert that is medium gray to grayish-brown. It is highly fossiliferous and between 300–500 feet thick.

SOILS

The majority of the project area occupies the bottomland of French Creek and the soils are mapped as Lewisville soils, characterized as nearly level alluvial deposits consisting of silty clay and limestone gravel. The sediments, adjacent to rivers and streams, have washed from surrounding uplands in recent geologic times (Taylor et al. 1962).

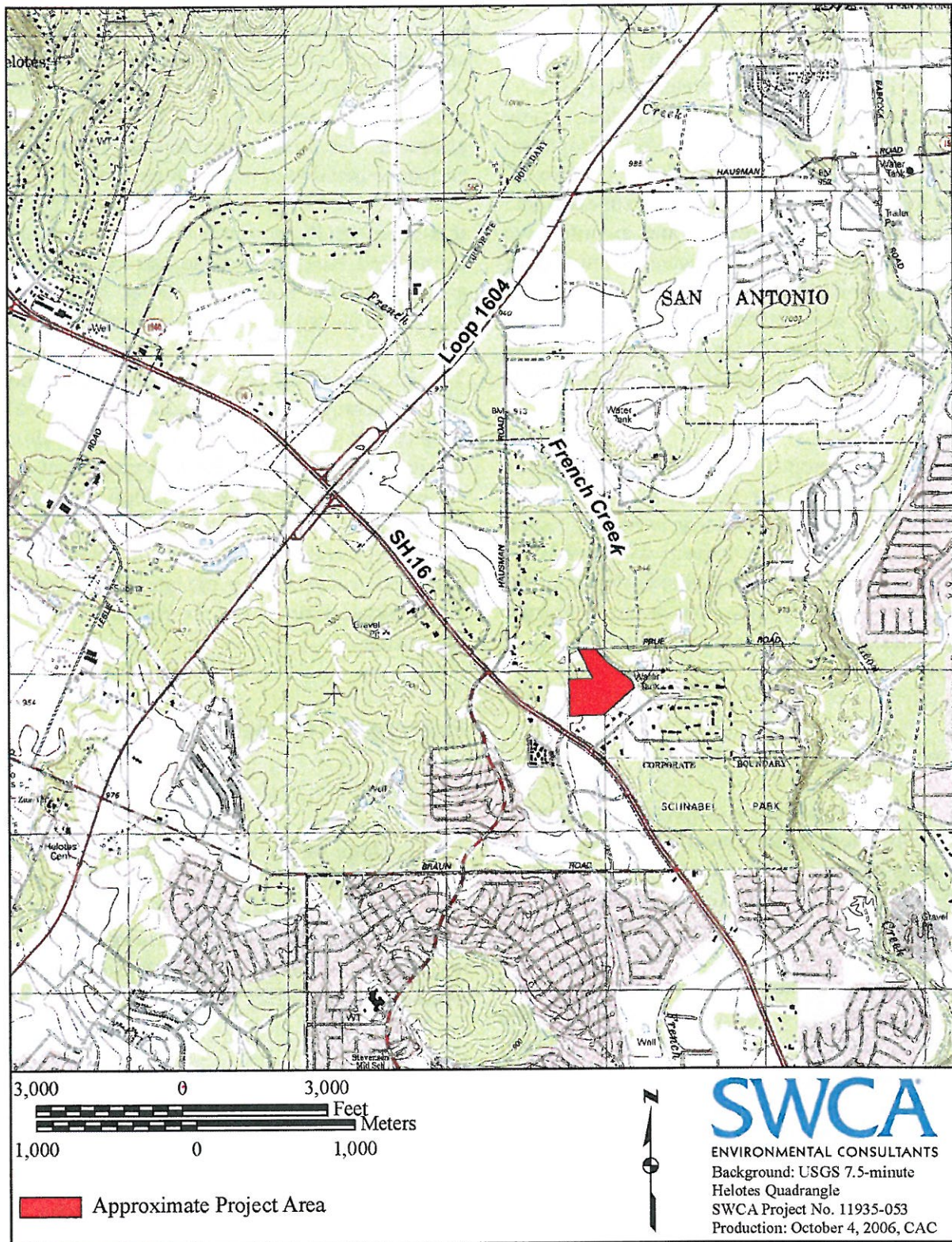


Figure 1. Project location map.

VEGETATION

The project area lies in the Edwards Plateau, west of the Balcones Escarpment, and is dominated by a mixed live oak (*Quercus texana*) / Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*) woodland interspersed with occasional grassy openings (Van Auken 1988). The creek channel itself contains a thin riparian zone of vegetation including some hardwoods but the adjacent fields are plowed or fallow with abundant grasses and secondary growth shrubs.

CULTURAL HISTORY

The project area lies at the interface of two broad archaeological regions, South Texas and Central Texas. As evident in the artifact assemblages from the San Antonio area, cultural influences fluctuated over time. The following culture history emphasizes Central Texas regional patterns as the best fit for the study area, although reference is made to important developments and trends in South Texas. The following discussion draws primarily from the chronologies proposed by Collins (1995), Johnson and Goode (1994), and Black (1989) for Central Texas, with observations from Hester (1995) for South Texas. The cultural sequence is divided into four periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Historic. The Archaic period is subdivided into four subperiods: Early, Middle, Late, and Transitional.

PALEOINDIAN PERIOD

Paleoindian artifacts and sites date from about 11,500–8800 B.P. and are not uncommon in Central Texas (Collins 1995). The period begins during the close of the Pleistocene with the earliest evidence of humans in the Central Texas region. Diagnostic artifacts of the period include lanceolate shaped, fluted projectile points such as Clovis, Folsom, and Plainview.

These projectile points were hafted onto wooden spears, launched from atlatls (spearthrowers), and often used to hunt big game such as mammoth, mastodons, bison, camel, and horse (Black 1989). During the Paleoindian period, subsistence strategies gradually changed to include increased harvesting of flora and small game as the big game died off and the climate warmed following the end of the Pleistocene ice age. Most Paleoindian artifacts in the area are recovered as either isolated surface finds or within surface lithic scatters lacking good stratigraphic context (e.g., Howard 1974; Meltzer and Bever 1995).

ARCHAIC PERIOD

As the Paleoindian period came to an end, humans began to harvest more intensively local floral and faunal resources (Collins 1995). Material culture became more diverse, and the use of burned rock middens and ovens became widespread. This period is known as the Archaic and dates from approximately 8800–1200 B.P. in Central Texas (Collins 1995; Johnson and Goode 1994). While Collins (1995) and Johnson and Goode (1994) subdivide the Archaic into Early, Middle, and Late subperiods, this report recognizes the Transitional Archaic as the final subperiod of the Archaic.

EARLY ARCHAIC

Early Archaic artifacts and sites date from about 8800–6000 B.P. (Collins 1995). Once thought to be Paleoindian in age, some unstemmed point types such as Angostura have recently been recognized as the first Early Archaic diagnostic styles (Collins 1995). By about 8000 B.P., these points were replaced by stemmed varieties such as Early Split Stem, Martindale, and Uvalde (Black 1989; Collins 1995). Most sites were open campsites, although cave sites have also been found (Collins 1995). Current site distribution data suggest that Early Archaic

peoples were concentrated along the eastern and southern margins of Edwards Plateau in areas with more stable water sources (Collins 1995; McKinney 1981). Specialized tools, perhaps used in woodworking, known as Guadalupe and Neuces bifaces, were prevalent in this period (Collins 1995). While subsistence data are sparse, it appears that people were hunting deer and other small animals, fishing, and cooking bulbs in earth ovens (Collins 1995). This strategy evolved, in part, due to the extinction of megafauna and the changing climate at the beginning of the Holocene (McKinney 1981).

MIDDLE ARCHAIC

Middle Archaic artifacts and sites date from about 6000–4000 B.P. Characteristic Middle Archaic projectile points include Bell, Andice, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis, several of which are deeply notched (Black 1989). These artifacts could have served as knives and projectile points. Bison were hunted intensively at the start of the Middle Archaic, but as the climate became drier, a reliance on dry climate plants such as sotol probably became common. The end of the Middle Archaic may have been the most xeric conditions ever in Central Texas (Collins 1995). The climatic change was accompanied by a technological change as Nolan and Travis points, which are thick and have narrow blades, first appear in the archaeological record (Collins 1995). Burned rock middens and earth ovens first appeared circa 5000 B.P. and became increasingly common, although their exact functions may have varied based on the culture and environment (Johnson and Goode 1994). Representative sites of the Texas Middle Archaic include the Landslide, Wounded Eye, Gibson, and Panther Springs sites (Collins 1995).

LATE ARCHAIC

Late Archaic artifacts and sites date from about 4000–2250 B.P. The period began with very xeric

conditions but gradually became more mesic (Collins 1995). Characteristic dart point types include Bulverde, Pedernales, Marshall, and Marcos (Collins 1995). Increasingly complex and sedentary cultural manifestations first appeared in the Late Archaic. Sites of the Late Archaic are very common and include burned rock middens, open campsites, and lithic procurement sites. Large cemeteries indicate population increases. Also, trade and exchange networks between cultures appear to have increased in complexity based on the presence of exotic goods in sites and cemeteries (Black 1989). Bement (1991) interprets the evidence for group investment in the Thunder Valley sinkhole cemetery, dated to 2900 B.P. based on stratigraphy, to indicate that groups were declaring control over a particularly territorial range during the Late Archaic.

TRANSITIONAL ARCHAIC

As Collins (1995:384–385) notes, “diverse and comparatively complex archeological manifestations toward the end of the Late Archaic attest to the emergence of kinds of human conduct without precedent in the area.” This period (2250–1250 B.P.) is referred to as the Transitional Archaic (Turner and Hester 1993). During the Transitional Archaic, smaller dart point forms such as Darl, Ensor, Fairland, and Frio were developed (Turner and Hester 1993). These points were probably ancestral to the first Late Prehistoric arrow point types and may have overlapped temporally with them (Hester 1995). Several researchers believe that the increased interaction between groups at the end of the Late Archaic was an important catalyst for cultural change (Collins 1995; Johnson and Goode 1994).

LATE PREHISTORIC

By the end of the Transitional Archaic, the bow and arrow technologies were introduced, indicated by the increasingly smaller size of

projectile points. The subsequent period is now commonly referred to as the Late Prehistoric period (Black 1989; Collins 1995; Turner and Hester 1993). The Late Prehistoric period dates from 1250–260 B.P. (Collins 1995). Characteristic artifacts include small arrowpoints as well as a variety of specific use tools. The Austin and Toyah intervals of the Late Prehistoric, originally recognized by Suhm (1960) and Jelks (1962), remain accepted divisions for the period. These style intervals may represent distinct cultural entities (e.g., Johnson 1994), although others challenge this view (e.g., Black and Creel 1997).

During the earlier Austin interval, burned rock midden use may have reached its maximum based on recent conclusions by Black and Creel (1997). Characteristic arrow point types of the Austin interval include Scallorn and Edwards (Collins 1995; Turner and Hester 1993). By the Toyah interval plainware ceramics appeared, indicating possible influence in the Central Texas region from ceramic producing cultures to the east and north (Pertulla et al. 1995). Contrary to bog pollen data (Collins et al. 1993), data from Hall's Cave in Kerr County indicate that the climate of Central Texas began to dry around 1000 B.P. (Toomey et al. 1993). This drying trend may have resulted in a change in vegetation that made central and south Texas more conducive to bison migration into the area, and bison remains in archaeological sites in the region became common after 750 B.P. (Dillehay 1974; Huebner 1991).

Most Toyah sites have the distinctive Perdiz arrow point, and some sites also have bison processing tool kits. This technological change has been interpreted as the spread of an ethnic group by Johnson (1994) and as the spread of technological ideas in response to opportunities provided by an increased bison population in the Late Prehistoric by Ricklis (1992). Increasing complexity in subsistence patterns and very

high prehistoric populations are postulated for the Late Prehistoric period (Black 1989; Collins 1995).

HISTORIC PERIOD

The Historic period (beginning ca. 260 B.P. or A.D. 1690) differs from the prehistoric periods in that it can be investigated from both archaeological remains and documentary records. From just after A.D. 1550 to the late 1600s, European incursions into South and Central Texas were rare, and the first Europeans did not settle in the region until around A.D. 1700 (Taylor 1996). Although the Historic period theoretically begins in Texas with the arrival of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca and the survivors of the Narvaez expedition along the Texas coast in 1528, the bulk of the inhabitants were Native Americans until the late eighteenth century. Documents from Spanish incursions into the region from the late seventeenth century on left valuable information on native groups and tribes. One such group, the Payaya, lived in the area of the modern city of San Antonio and are described as a hunting and gathering group organized in extended family units camping near springs and streams where nuts, pecan trees, and woods were abundant. Bison were hunted on open grasslands between the San Antonio and Colorado Rivers for their meat and hides (Hester 1989:80). The Payaya may have occupied several sites in a roughly 50 km "summer" range and had occasional contact with other groups as they traveled to and from resource camps seasonally (Campbell 1983:349–351).

The Payaya sought protection from the Apache at newly established Spanish missions, settlements, and presidios like the Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) and the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar founded on May 5, 1718, by Don Martín de Alarcón near the headwaters of San Pedro Creek (Chipman 1992:117). The Spanish in turn, actively recruited the Native

Americans to help bolster their settlements on this northern frontier in response to French incursions led by La Salle. The Spanish presence around San Antonio is best seen as part of the complex European political picture of the time. Spearheading the renewed Spanish interest with leadership and funding was the captain, general and governor of Coahuila and Texas, Joseph de Azlor y Virto de Vera, Marques de San Miguel de Aguayo, who established San Antonio as the regional hub of northern Spanish settlement in Texas at this time (Cox 1997; Fox 1989).

After the establishment of San Antonio in the 1720s, the settlement effectively developed into a provincial Spanish town in the eighteenth century. In the early nineteenth century, the viceroyalty of New Spain gained independence from the Spanish empire partly due to the Napoleonic invasion of Spain, and the nation of Mexico was born. To help facilitate settlement of Texas, the region was opened up to Anglo settlers from the United States led by Stephen F. Austin. Eventually, this led to an independence movement by Texas area Anglo and Mexican citizens in the 1830s (Fox 1989). The well-known story of the battle of the Alamo and Texas independence is beyond the scope of discussion here, but the city of San Antonio played an integral part for both Mexican and Texan forces during the War for Texas Independence. Following this period, San Antonio remained a significant provincial city, growing and developing under Mexican, Texan, and American national policy in the nineteenth century (Fox 1989).

Anglo-period settlement began in the nineteenth century with significant historical events including the initial 1820s settlements, the Texas War for Independence in 1836, the incorporation of the Republic of Texas into the United States in 1845, the War with Mexico a few years after incorporation, and the U.S. Civil War of 1861–1865. During the War with Mexico, San Antonio served as a major hub for

General Zachary Taylor's invasion of Mexico. Many of the military commanders of the U.S. Civil War were stationed and operated out of San Antonio at this time (Taylor 1996). San Antonio also served as a communications and shipping hub for goods imported from Mexico for the Confederate war effort in the early 1860s (Taylor 1996).

The first railway came through the city in 1877, bringing with it a plethora of job opportunities and commercial ventures. The railroad brought about a large shift in settlement patterns, as the eastern neighborhoods which were once multi-ethnic, became popular among African-Americans who worked as porters, mechanics, and loading crews for the growing railways. Wealthy citizens moved from the noise and traffic of downtown to quieter suburbs to the north and west. Through the 1880s and 1890s, as the economy of the city prospered through tourism, population of the city doubled from 53,321 to over 100,000 people (Fox et al. 1997:31).

Throughout the early twentieth century, trade, transportation, and tourism continued to bring economic prosperity to the city. The establishment of Fort Sam Houston and the activity surrounding World War I and World War II kept the railway system active and commercial activity in the east prospered. Through the remainder of the twentieth century, the city expanded rapidly but the downtown portion retained the city plan established in the nineteenth century.

METHODS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

SWCA performed a background literature review to determine if the project area had been previously surveyed for cultural resources or

if any archaeological sites are located within the project area. To conduct this review, an archaeologist reviewed the Helotes USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map at the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and also searched the THC's Texas Historic Sites Atlas and site files at TARL. These sources provided information on the nature and location of previously conducted archaeological surveys and previously recorded cultural resource sites.

FIELD METHODS

During the archaeological survey, two SWCA archaeologists walked the entire proposed project area, utilizing extensive surface exposures, various natural and artificial profile cuts, and shovel tests to determine the presence and potential for cultural resources. The intensity of subsurface investigations complied with standards recommended by the THC, which mandates one shovel test every two acres in areas containing a potential for buried deposits. Portions of the proposed subdivision lacked such potential, and therefore, the number of shovel tests excavated was reduced. As will be addressed in detail in the results section, disturbed and horizontally displaced soils or bedrock exposures minimized the potential for buried cultural deposits.

Shovel tests were excavated in 10-cm arbitrary levels until bedrock or basal gravels, were encountered. Excavated soil was screened through ¼ -inch mesh to retrieve any cultural materials that might be present. The location of each shovel test was plotted using a hand-held Global Positioning System receiver, and each test was recorded on a standardized form to document the excavations.

RESULTS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

The background review revealed that one archaeological site was discovered (41BX370) during a previously conducted archaeological survey in the project area (Figure 2).

Site 41BX370 was recorded by J.A. Jaquier on January 15, 1977 for the "201 Sewer" (THC files). The "201 Sewer" survey could not be found in the THC files. An existing sewer line and associated manhole covers parallels French Creek in a northwest to southeast tangent, and it is assumed that this might be part of the 1977 Jaquier survey. The site, 41BX370, as plotted on the THC files is elliptical in shape and is located on the first and secondary eastern terraces of French Creek for the most part. However, a smaller segment of the site does extend into the extreme eastern portion of the demarcated project area. As represented on the THC files map, the site is located within French Creek's floodplain and extends westward into the project area, south of Prue Road, north of North Verde Drive, and on the first and secondary terraces of the eastern banks of French Creek. Site 41BX370 is a large prehistoric campsite with an abundant scatter of lithic reduction flakes, bifaces of unknown temporal affiliation and an isolated Union Musician's Sword (circa 1860-1865). Mr. Terry Poehlmann, the original property owner of the project area prior to Woodside Homes of South Texas, stated in a phone conversation that the sword was not found on the proposed project area. According to Mr. Poehlmann, the sword was originally found on the extreme southeastern area of the site, on the eastern terraces of the site on a bluff overlooking French Creek and outside of the project area. The initial investigations of the site recorded site depth and extent, but the significance and need for further work was not defined.

ITEM INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

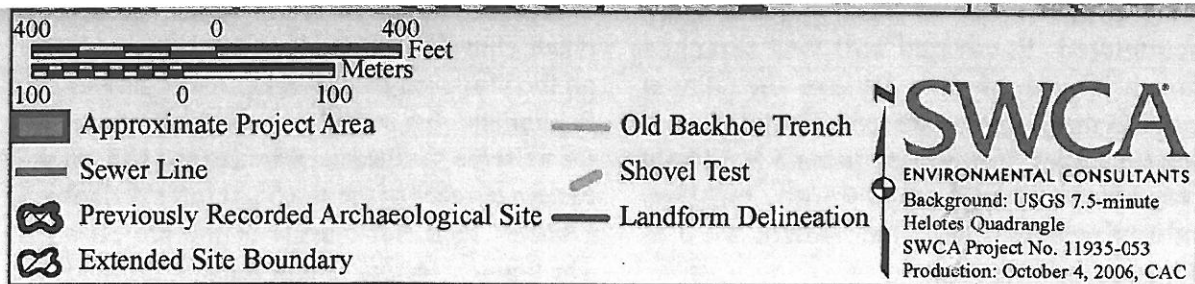


Figure 2. Previously recorded site 41BX370, showing extended site boundary, project area, and disturbances.

FIELD SURVEY

On September 27, 2006, two SWCA archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area of potential effect (APE). These investigations encountered silty clay loams overlying gravelly substrata with good ground surface visibility that ranged from 60–90 percent. Some disturbances observed include vegetation clearing, plowed fields, mechanically truncated soils, an existing sewer line, two old backhoe trenches, and natural erosion and accretion from the French Creek channel (see Figure 2). The project area is divided into two separate physiological landforms, an upland limestone bedrock landform and a T1 terrace overlooking the French Creek flood plain (Figure 3).

The upland landform includes most of the western portion of the project area and most of the planned development. The investigations encountered exposures of limestone bedrock and shallow alluvial deposits. This entire landform has been impacted by heavy equipment, which has horizontally displaced and truncated the surface alluvial deposits down to the limestone bedrock material, having a very low potential for significant, buried cultural deposits (Figure 4). The remnants of homes and associated materials were seen on the surface in some areas of this upland terrace. These included an asphalt driveway, a linear wall foundation, bricks, glass, metal piping, and a concrete lined cistern/septic depression with standing water. According to the contact person, Mr. Bron Leatham, these raised housing structures date to the 1960s. Besides these modern materials, no prehistoric or historic cultural materials were found and no sites were identified across the upland landform.

The examination of the T1 terrace revealed a mostly level plowed field, cleared of vegetation except for oak trees adjacent to the terrace break and the French Creek channel. At the time of the pedestrian survey, this terrace had tall grass growing in areas where water from the creek ponds up. Two recently excavated and backfilled backhoe trenches were identified on this terrace. These trenches, according to Mr. Bron Leatham, Woodside Homes of South Texas representative, were excavated for geological sampling. The trench (easternmost) within the newly expanded site area is the smaller of the two in length and depth (2.5 m x 50 cm x 25 cm) due to basal gravels found near the creek drainage. The western trench is longer and deeper (4 m x 50 cm x 1 m) due to the distance from the creek and depth of the gravels on the fluvial plain. This western trench was opened up to expose the subsurface depositional sequence in this area. Three shovel tests (ST 1–3) were placed within the APE in areas with the most potential for containing subsurface cultural materials (Figure 5). The shovel tests encountered a similar stratigraphy as that found in the exposed trench, composed of brown clay loams overlying a gravelly substratum. The



Figure 3. Slope edge off the limestone bedrock upland down towards T1 alluvial terrace.



Figure 4. The heavily impacted limestone bedrock upland by heavy equipment, showing a horizontally displaced and truncated surface.

depths of the shovel tests ranged from 10–65 cm below surface (Table 1).

One shovel test (ST 3) placed in intact depositional soils adjacent to site 41BX370 yielded abundant limestone gravels and no cultural materials. On the eastern fringes of the T1 terrace of the western side of French Creek, 41BX370 encroaches the eastern perimeter of the project area (Figure 6). An intensive survey of the area revealed a scant surficial lithic scatter associated with the site.

41BX370

Site 41BX370 was recorded as a large open prehistoric campsite adjacent to French Creek. The site form indicated that test pits were placed to determine site depth, extent, and significance during the “201 Sewer” project, and concluded that the site was not in the way of

the proposed sewer line right-of-way (Jaquier 1977). The original site map shows the site barely encroaching the western banks of French Creek, but the site form clearly states that the site is to the west of French Creek. The reason for the site’s location discrepancy is unknown. Upon revisiting the site, SWCA archaeologists observed multiple disturbances agricultural tilling, two backhoe trenches and the placement of a recent buried sewer line on the western edges of the site. The site does not extend far into the eastern edges of the project area. The site is bisected by French Creek, is south of Prue Road, north of North Verde Drive, bounded to the east by T4 and to the west by T1

terraces. The area of the site on the western banks of French Creek has a narrow riparian corridor associated with the creek, a fence line marking either the property line or wetland delineation, a buried sewer line corridor paralleling the fence line and creek, and a tilled fallow field that abuts the edges of the limestone landform and



Figure 5. Shovel Test 1 towards Shovel Test 2, view to the east-northeast within the APE.

Table 1. Data from Shovel Tests

Shovel Test #	Depth (cm)	Sediment Texture	Soil Color	Cultural Resources	Comments
1	0-55	Clay Loam	Brown	Negative	In flood plain, likely colluvial outwash from neighboring slopes. Few gravels.
2	0-65	Clay Loam	Very Dark Gray	Negative	In floodplain, consolidated clay loams. Gravels and CaCO ₃ filaments at bottom.
3	0-10	Gravelly Clay Loam	Brown	Negative	Located near 41BX370 on the eastern perimeter of the APE near the French Creek channel. Heavy gravels.

the T1 terrace. The lithic artifactual assemblage consists entirely of locally available Georgetown Cherts. This assemblage is mostly reduction flakes, secondary and interior in nature, totaling 35 including a biface fragment and are scattered over a 100-x-200-m area. Since the area has been tilled in the past, numerous flakes originated by mechanical means (i.e., plow scars). Cryogenic pot lid non-cultural flakes were also seen in the area.

Jaquier (1977) did not make a clear determination of eligibility for the site in the site form recommendation. Due to the condition of the site and current survey results, SWCA considers the research value of the western portion of the site just within the project area to be negligible. Additionally, the site is contained within the proposed greenbelt areas that will not be developed as part of the project according to Mr. Bron Leatham, representative of Woodside Homes of South Texas. No further work is recommended on the site in the project area.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of Woodside Homes of South Texas, SWCA conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the proposed Avalon Subdivision project in Bexar County, Texas. In compliance with the Unified Development Code of San Antonio, the work was done to determine whether the proposed undertaking would affect significant cultural resources. The archaeological work included an archaeological



Figure 6. On the eastern fringes of the T1 terrace of the western side of French Creek where 41BX370 encroaches the eastern perimeter of the project area.

background records review and an intensive pedestrian survey with shovel testing.

The background records review revealed that no portion of the project area had been previously surveyed. However, previously recorded Site 41BX370 extends into the eastern portion of the project area that abuts French Creek. The site is a prehistoric campsite with associated lithic debitage and tools of unknown Archaic temporal affiliation contained within disturbed surficial contexts.

The survey revealed that the proposed project area is contained directly within the T1 terrace, a recent-age shallow terrace of French Creek, and the currently exposed and developed limestone bedrock upland. These areas have negligible potential for intact, buried archaeological deposits and were inspected by pedestrian survey with shovel tests. While the THC standards for a project of this size mandates a minimum of one shovel test per every two acres in the 26-acre project area, large portions did not warrant testing due to disturbances and exposed bedrock. A total of three shovel tests were excavated in areas that were seemingly undisturbed and appeared to contain intact depositional soils. These shovel tests encountered basal gravels with no archaeological resources.

In regards to the previously recorded site, the adjacent areas within the project area were intensively investigated. Evidence of the site (41BX370) was observed just barely extending into the proposed project area. However, the site will not be affected by the proposed subdivision project due to the construction being limited to the exposed and developed limestone upland.

Based on the results of the survey, the site on the proposed project area is not considered significant on the basis of lacking in situ integrity, limited artifact frequency and therefore no information potential. According to the Woodside Homes of

South Texas representative, Mr. Bron Leatham, the proposed development will not encroach the site because it is contained within proposed greenbelt areas that will not be developed as part of the project. Based on these findings, the proposed Avalon Subdivision Project will have no effect on significant cultural resources. Accordingly, no further archaeological work is recommended.

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